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SUSTAINING

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #134

11:30 to 12:30 P.M.C.S.T.

NOVEMBER 2, 1934

FRIDAY

WFO UNDER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: PIANO DUO

ANNOUNCER: Up on Uncle Sam's National Forest, the Forest Ranger is the man who is manager of a ranger district that may be all the way from 100,000 to 350,000 acres in size. That's a pretty big piece of ground for any man to look after, and when its management involves the protection and the proper handling of vitally important resources and the supervision of a wide variety of activities, you can realize that the Forest Ranger's job is some job. In his stewardship, the ranger is responsible to the Forest Supervisor who is in charge of a National Forest embracing perhaps half a dozen ranger districts.

At the Pine Cone Ranger Station today we find that Supervisor Bert Ellsworth and Jim Robbins have just finished up a detailed inspection of the Pine Cone district to see if everything is up to standard. How did they find it? Well, let's tune in at the Ranger Station and see -- here's Jim in the office; Jerry's just coming in:

JERRY: (COMING UP) Well, Jim, did you and the Supervisor finish inspecting everything?

JIM: (ORISPLY) Not quite, Jerry -- but Bert had to go back to Willow Glen this afternoon.

JERRY: I s'pose you've got about forty-nine dozen black marks on us, after all this checking up.

JIM: Maybe -- more or less. -- I reckon I might as well check up on your files here, now, while we're at it.

JERRY: (CLUMSY) I guess you'll find them all right, anyhow.

JIM: We'll see.

JIM: (COMING UP) Oh, you're so early, Jim. Did Mr. Ellsworth leave?

JIM: Yes. He had to get back to Willow Glen.

JERRY: I see. I'll hurry and get supper ready, Jim. I didn't expect you home so early.

JIM: So hurry, Jess.

JERRY: Well, I'll start things anyhow. I know you'll be hungry, Jerry.

JERRY: Beyond right.

JIM: How did you get along with that timber marking job, "Bill"? Set it and I will set it. I want to get it marked before we get another snow.

JERRY: Pretty fair. I've got enough marked to keep the cutters going for a couple of months, anyway.

JIM: I hope you did a little better job of selection this time than last.

JERRY: What was wrong with that?

JIM: Well, I noticed a couple of spike-tops you missed.

JERRY: Well, anybody's liable to overlook one now and then, Jim.

JIM: (CURLS) Maybe so, but you know every one left is an indicator of inefficiency.

JERRY: Yeah, I guess that's true. I guess I'd better give this last marking the once-over again.

(SOUND OF RUSTLING PAPERS)

JIM: Oh huh — You haven't posted the last expense account. Have you, Jerry?

JERRY: (EXCITEDLY) Yes -- I think so.

JIM: (OURLY) The travel record card don't show it.

JERRY: I -- I might have forgotten to make the entry.

JIM: Well, it's not on the card. Here. Post it now.

JERRY: Where's the memorandum copy of the account? (PAUSE)
Here it is.

JIM: Eh -- the file seem to be in pretty fair shape otherwise.

JERRY: I thought you'd find 'em almost right.

JIM: Oh man (STERN) I'm going to make up an investigation memorandum later, but maybe we'd better go over some of the discrepancies I found right now while we're on the subject.

JERRY: (ALUM) Go ahead. I suppose I've got plenty of short-comings.

JIM: Well, starting with Fire Control, saying as that's our chief concern -- I found the fire detection map at Bald Park looked out of synchronization about two degrees again.

JERRY: Huh? He fixed that once. That's why some of those lines weren't where Post located 'em on the map.

JIM: (GRUFFLY) Post admitted that he'd moved the map when he remailed the table.

JERRY: The service unit. Why didn't he report it so I could've corrected it immediately?

JIM: (OURLY) The one of your responsibilities, Jerry, to see that these maps are kept correctly placed. Otherwise our people wouldn't fire detection isn't worth a penny.

JERRY: (GRUM) Yeah, I know.

JIM: You handled the last one right. See how you placed 'em in the right way?

JERRY: Gosh, it just didn't enter my head that Pete would collect that map again. I told him positively not to change the position of that map.

JIM: (STERNLY) Well, he did move it - and our fire detection on the White Butte, Cloud Peak and Pine Creek fires might've been materially affected.

JERRY: I'll watch it closer after this, Jim.

JIM: All right and right in line with that, I found the Spring Creek fire tool cache in bad order.

JERRY: I can't figure that out. We haven't used those tools this summer on any fire, Jim, and last time I checked that box it was up to standard requirements.

JIM: Well, some one had broken the seal, and used the axe, and took all of the oil out of the lantern and cans. When did you check it last?

JERRY: Well - uh - let's see - it was - uh - maybe I've got the date in my diary. (RUSTLES PAPER) I guess my diary don't show it, but it wasn't so long ago.

JIM: It wasn't, eh? It appeared to me it'd been that way several weeks. We're expected not only to keep our equipment in order, you know, but to apprehend anybody tampering with Government property.

JERRY: Gosh -- I guess it's too late now.

JIM: Maybe not. I made a few notes that might help us find who did it. Yes.

JERRY: Well, I'll get the box in shape right away, Jim.

JIM: All right. Hmm - let's see. Yeah, and there's that Canyon Road. The drainage seems to have been neglected. Wasn't that one of your jobs?

JERRY: We cleared all those culverts once, but that heavy rain knocked some of 'em and besides we ran out of maintenance funds.

JIM: But just the same a little work there would have saved some stretch on the lower end.

JERRY: Well, I'd have cleared that culvert if that daily snow didn't come, and caused us so much extra work with the sheep.

JIM: Well, you'd better get at that repair job in the next few days. If you don't, the spring freshets will take out the whole road-bed. (RUSTLES PAPER) Let's see - Timber Management - Game - Range Management. Didn't you do some range inspection over on the north end?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Well, some of your ranges up there don't look as hot.

JERRY: That's two dry spells hit them pretty hard.

JIM: Were you getting the proper amount of riding down by the hands?

JERRY: Yes, the riders they had with the cattle this year were pretty faithful, but some of those old men won't stay any place but along the creek bottom.

JIM: I know that, but it's up to us to get the stockmen to keep them off those flats and not let them become overgrazed.

JERRY: Well, I was saying all the time, Jim (PAUSE HEAVILY) Oh, it's a tough job. I talked to 'em 'till I was black in the face.

JIM: (STERNLY) The Supervisor will have to cut down on the numbers of stock permitted if they don't do it; and it's up to us to make the stockmen understand it.

JERRY: I'll keep working on 'em.

JIM: (RUSTLE PAPER) I guess that's about all just now. Let's see your diary, Jerry.

JERRY: Here it is. It's right up to date this morn'g.

JIM: It should be. You're expected to write it every day. (RUSTLE PAPER)

JERRY: I do. I've been keeping it up pretty well. I didn't

JIM: It looks all right. I see you worked all that week's work to Timmer's place. Didn't you do anything else out here recently?

JERRY: Nope. -- That is -- well, I did write some lines that pertained for food and -- oh, yes, I pointed out the rock box up at the campground.

JIM: (STERNLY) If you used a half-hour or so of your spare time you should have worked it to the proper activity.

JERRY: I guess I did use about that much time in polishing the car and checking the radio.

JIM: You didn't show either job in your diary.

JERRY: I didn't think it was important enough to put it down.

JIM: Now do you want a correct entry recorded if you don't change everything you do?

JERRY: (HASTILY) I guess maybe right. Well, I guess I'd better fix it, then now. (GLUM) Gosh — is there anything I ever did right?

BESS: (COMING UP) Buyer is about ready, Jim.

JIM: All right, Boss. (OBSERVING) Well, Jerry, are you ready to take on a little grab?

JERRY: (GLUM) I guess so.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

BESS: Oh, Jerry —

JERRY: What, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: Jerry, you didn't seem very hungry at supper time. Aren't the biscuits good?

JERRY: Sure, Mrs. Robbins. Everything was swell.

BESS: But you didn't eat hardly anything. Aren't you feeling well?

JERRY: Sure, I'm all right — out —

BESS: But what?

JERRY: (GLUM) Oh — Jim's been bawling me out about everything under the sun. Gosh, it seems like everything I do is wrong. You work like the dickens and nobody ever appreciates it, but the minute you slip up on something everybody jumps on you.

BESS: Why, Jerry, you haven't got discouraged that way. I'm sure Jim and Mr. Kilworth both appreciate all the work you're doing. They're just anxious to have everything done just as well as possible, you know.

JERRY: Yeah, I suppose so, but they might give ^{you} a little credit for trying once in a while.

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

BESS: There's someone at the door, Jerry. I imagine it's Mary.
Hello, Mary.

JERRY: Yeah -- (LOUDER) Come in.

(SOUND OF DOOR OPENING)

MARY: (COMING IN) Hello, everybody.

BESS: Good evening, Mary -- come right in.

JERRY: Hello, Mary.

MARY: Have you finished your supper?

BESS: Yes, we're all through, Mary, but can't I fix you something?

MARY: Oh no, thanks, Mrs. Robbins. I've had mine already. I just thought that if Jerry was through -- and if he wasn't too busy -- maybe he'd walk down to the village with me. It's so nice out tonight. Will you, Jerry?

JERRY: (STILL CLUM) Well -- I -- I'm kinda tired tonight, Mary -- I -- if you don't mind -- I'd kinda like to just stick here and --

MARY: Has something gone wrong, Jerry?

JERRY: No -- only -- I guess I don't feel so special tonight.

BESS: Maybe a little walk would do you good, Jerry -- and a chance to chat with some of the younger folks down in the village.

JERRY: I guess I just don't feel like talking with anybody tonight.

MARY: (UNCERTAIN) Oh -- well -- oh -- maybe I'd better be running along.

JERRY: No -- stick around, Mary.

BESS: Yes, do stay awhile, Mary. Maybe you can catch him up.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

SEAN: There's someone else at the door (GOING OFF) I'll see you
it is

(SOUND OF DOOR OPENING)

VISITOR: (OFF) Good evening, Mr. Sean. Is the Ranger in?

SEAN: (OFF) Yes, Mr. Robinson is here. Come right in. (CALLS)
Oh, Jim

JIM: (OFF) Yeah?

SEAN: There's a gentleman here to see you

JIM: (COMING UP) All right. Ready sir

VISITOR: Good evening, Ranger

JIM: Oh, it's Mr. Bain. I didn't recognize you

VISITOR: I was up to see your assistant last week, your assistant, about
that special use permit for a cabin site?

JIM: Yes, we sent in the report on that.

VISITOR: I received the permit, so I ran up to see if you could help
me get a set of cabin logs. I've already talked with your
assistant, Mr. Quirk, about it.

JIM: Sure. We'd be glad to. Come in the office next, and I'll
make up the sales permit right away.

VISITOR: I hate to bother you at night, but I've (GOING OFF) got to
get back to Willow Glen as soon as possible

(SOUND OF DOOR) (PAUSE)

SEAN: That's the fellow that's getting a summer home permit up at
the Forks

SEAN: He seems to be a very nice man.

JERRY: Well, I want to a lot of trouble getting him fixed up, but--well, folks never seem to appreciate anything like that always imposing on you. I don't see why they can't come during regular office hours.

BESS: I guess for a Ranger there's no such thing as regular hours.

JERRY: I should say not. Well, I hope he's satisfied when Jim gets through with him, anyhow.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (OFF) Well, I guess that oughta fix you up, Mr. Bain.

VISITOR: (COMING UP) Yes indeed. I appreciate this favor a lot, Mr. Robbins. And I'm sorry to bother you so much, but this was the only chance I had to stop by here.

JIM: (UP) Glad to accommodate you, sir.

VISITOR: And I want to tell you, too, Mr. Robbins, that you've got a mighty fine assistant -- that young Mr. Quick. He's certainly been helpful and accommodating to me in fixing up this permit.

JIM: Well, I think Jerry's an up and coming young ranger, all right myself. To tell the truth, Mr. Bain, I wouldn't trade him for any other young fellow in the whole Service.

VISITOR: I don't blame you. Well good night -- and thanks, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Good night sir.

(DOOR CLOSING)

JIM: (CALLS) Oh, Jerry --

JERRY: (OFF) Yeah!

JIM: That fellow just sold me a bit of a compliment.

JERRY: (OP) Yeah, I heard Jim. I heard what you said too, Jim. Did you mean it?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I generally like to mean what I say, Sam.

JERRY: Well - you kinda took the starch outta me this afternoon - but (LAUGHING) Say, I'm feeling a lot better! (CALLS) Hey, Mary!

MARY: (OFF) Yes, Jerry!

JERRY: (ENTHUSIASTIC) What was that you were saying about taking a walk? Let's all take a walk - it's a swell night out. Come on, Jim! Come on, Mrs. Robbins!

(FADEOUT)

NARRATOR: Well, the Depression's over, I guess, so far as Jerry is concerned.

We have a note from the United States Forest Service that will interest you folks. Here it is:

At the close of the season of greatest fire danger in most of the western National Forests brings with it a new record in number of fires so far this year. Up to the middle of last month, the Forest Service had fought more than 10,000 fires, an increase of 3,690 over the annual average for the preceding three years. In spite of the worst seasons ever experienced on many of the Forests, however, the Forest Service, aided by the presence of thousands of CCC boys and other emergency workers, and by the new protection facilities which have been completed, was able to hold the losses to a relatively low figure, compared to other bad years. Area burned in the National Forests amounted to 539,980 acres, compared to a 3 year average of 374,375 acres, and to a loss of 400,000 acres in 1931, the last year of comparable hazard.

(more)

• **AROUNDERS:** The forces of nature subjected our forests to a double attack this year, first drying out much of the regions to an unprecedented degree, and then storming the defenses with "dry lightning" in almost rainless electric-storms, and with hot winds, giving the Forest Service some of its worst battles since 1910. The number of lightning storms increased practically 100 percent over the 3-year-average.

• More significant, however, was the increase in man-caused fires -- some 1,300 more than the 3-year average. It may be many years before lightning again sets as many fires as it has this year, says the Forest Service, and apparently human nature remains the biggest factor in prevention and control of fires. The increase in man-caused fires is laid primarily to carelessness of campers and smokers in the forests. Dry woods and weather increased the chances that carelessly tossed matches and tobacco or unguarded campfires would ignite the tinder of the forest. How to bring home to the public the necessity for care with fire in the woods is one of the most perplexing problems before the Forest Service.

• The last few weeks saw substantially decreased fire hazards in most of the western regions, although conditions in some spots continue critical. In the forests east of the Great Plains to the Atlantic there was some increase in hazards which may be accentuated as the leaves fall.

• Next week, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be with us again. This program is presented by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

